Agenda

Welcome & Introduction
Regional Services Director

Welcome Remarks
Chair Citizens Advisory Board

Operating Budget Basics

Feedback and Questions with the County Executive

Closing Remarks
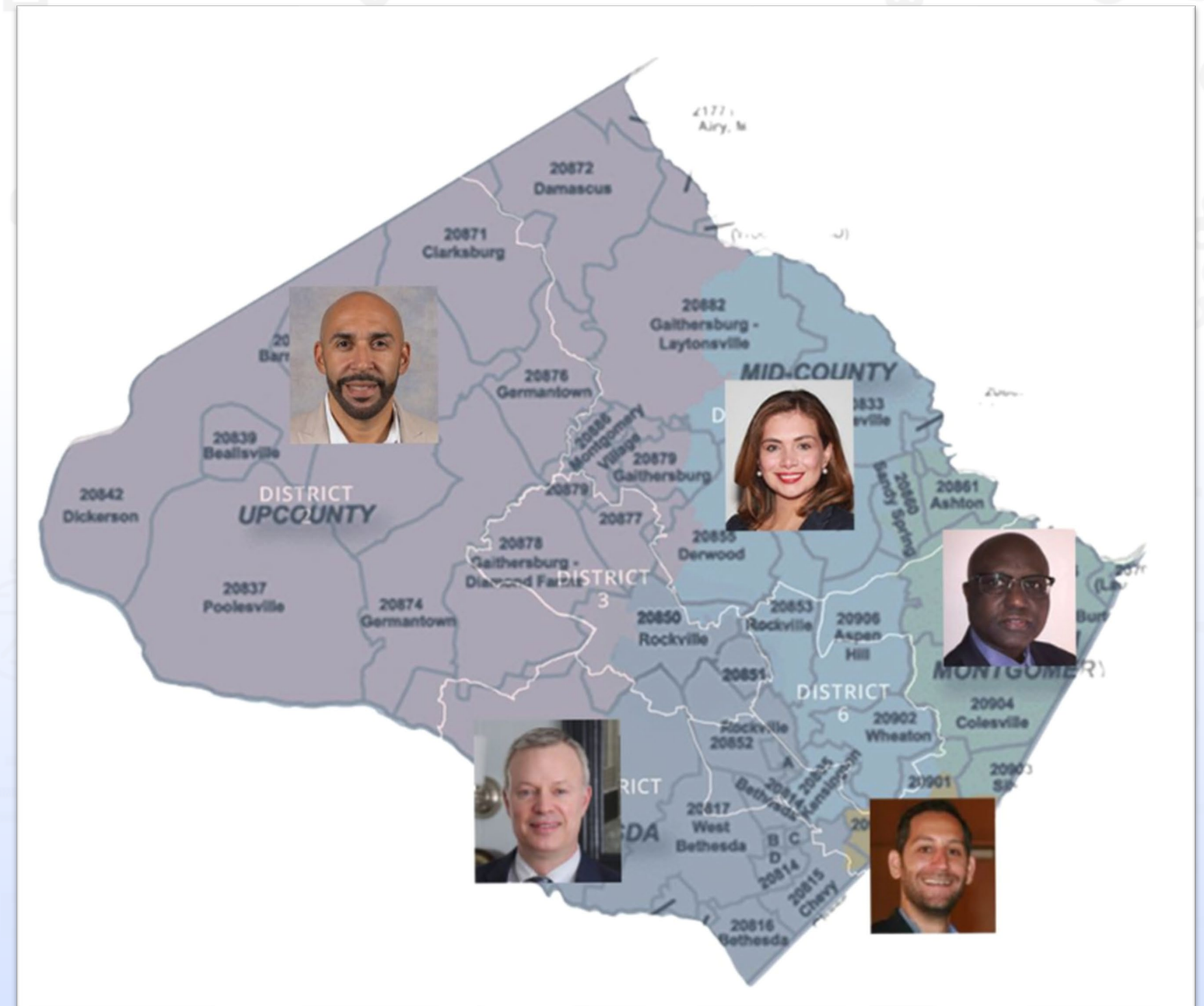
Thank you!
Your Voice Matters

- Citizen Advisory Board Operating Budget Forums

- Council public hearings on the Operating Budget

- Boards, Committees and Commissions

- Emails/letters to the County Executive, County Council and School Board members
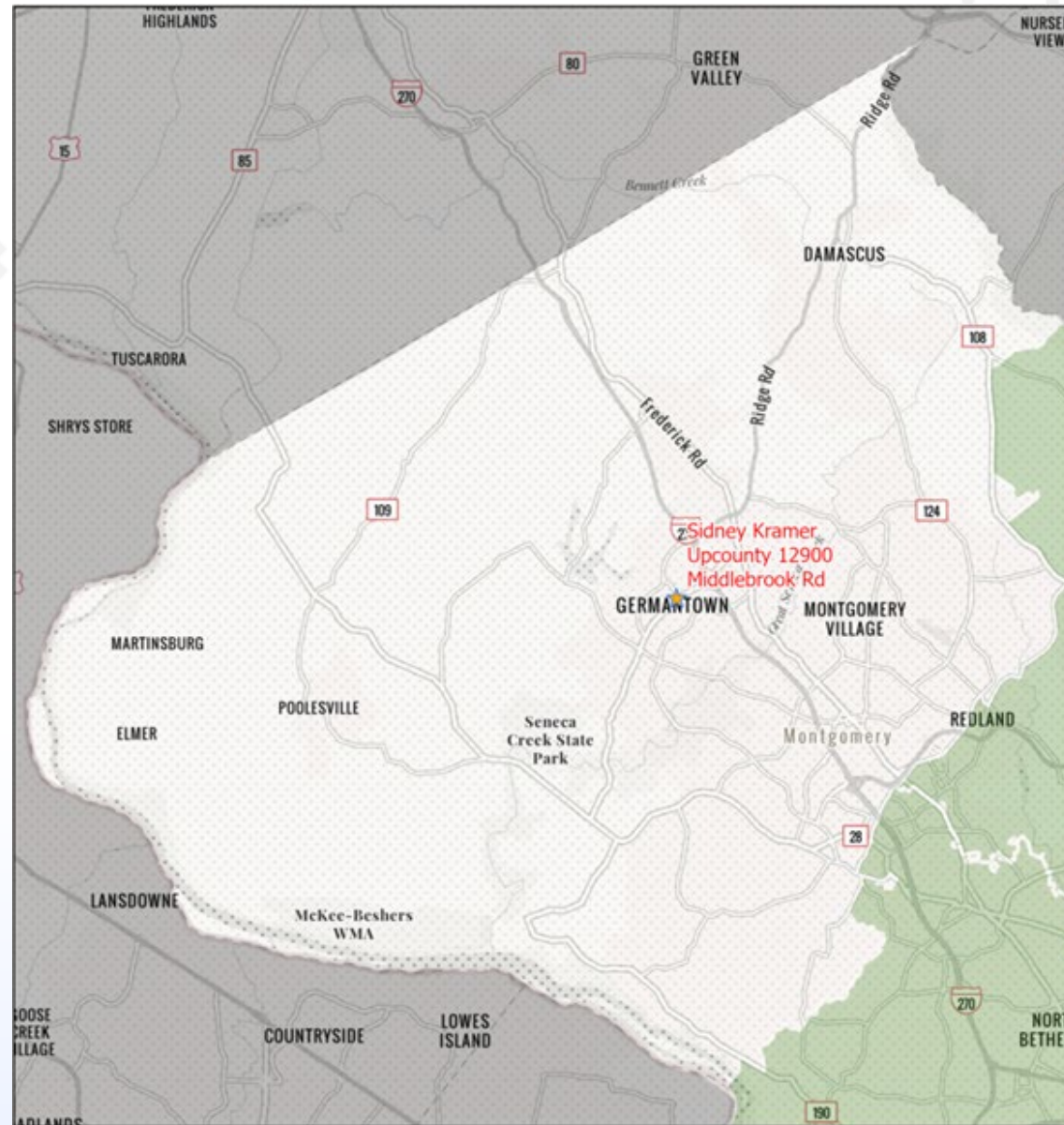
- Public meetings

Montgomery County Regional Services

What We Do and What's Happening

- DownCounty B-CC
- East County
- MidCounty
- Silver Spring
- Upcounty

Upcounty

▶Barnesville   Germantown
▶Beallsville   Goshen
▶Boyds   Hyattstown
▶Clarksburg   Laytonsville
▶Damascus   Montgomery Village
▶Darnestown   North Potomac
▶Derwood   Poolesville
▶Dickerson   Tobytown
▶Gaithersburg   Washington Grove

Higher Education:
▶Montgomery College-Germantown Campus
▶Universities at Shady Grove

Federal Headquarters:
▶US Department of Energy
▶National Institute of Standards & Technology
▶National Cancer Institute

- Over **1,000 people** visit the **Upcounty Regional Services Center** Building each day

- The Center serves approximately **340,000 people** and covers half the land area of the county

- Over **200 people** work in the building

Upcounty Investment

Major Upcounty Facilities with personnel: 5 Public Libraries, 5 Recreation Centers, The Montgomery County Correctional Facility, the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, the Shady Grove Transfer Station and Recycling Centers, 14 Fire Stations, 3 District Command Police Stations, The Animal Services and Adoption Center, The ABS Warehouse, and The Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility.

Other Ways to get involved Upcounty

- Boards, Committees, and Commissions: There are more than 75 Boards and Commissions, including the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board, Agricultural Advisory Committee, Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board, Airpark Community Advisory Committee, Dickerson Area Facilities Implementation Group

- Germantown Sector Plan Amendment

- Clarksburg Gateway Sector Plan

- Germantown Town Center Initiative

- Neighborhood Events Matching Fund

- Partner with the Upcounty Regional Services Center

Two Budgets – One County

Operating Budget:
Everyday Services

🎓 Schools

🚓 Police/fire

🏥 Health & services

🚌 Bus service

🗑️ Trash Collection

📚 Libraries & parks

Capital Budget:
Big Project and Buildings

🏫 New school buildings

🛣️ Roads/bridges

🚌 Transit centers/Metro

🏢 Government buildings

🌳 Parks & pools

Operating Budget Process & Timeline

September – November

Community Engagement

Collect Community Feedback

November – January

OMB Internal Review

March 15th

Recommended Budget to Council

April – May

Public Hearings & Council Review

Approval End of May

Departments Submit Requests

October - November

County Executive Review

MCPS, College, MNCPPC Submit Requests

December – February

Operating Budget Amendments due to State Aid

April

County Executive Priorities:
Affordable Housing

- From FY23 through FY25, Montgomery County has invested **$293 million** from our development finance budget to support affordable housing

- These investments have supported the **production and preservation of more than 4,000 affordable housing units,** affordable for families earning up to 70 percent of Area Median Income (AMI)

- Production and preservation:
  - FY23: 975 affordable units in 13 projects
  - FY24: 1,133 affordable units in 17 projects
  - FY25: 1,948 affordable units in 26 projects

DHCA-Housing Loans
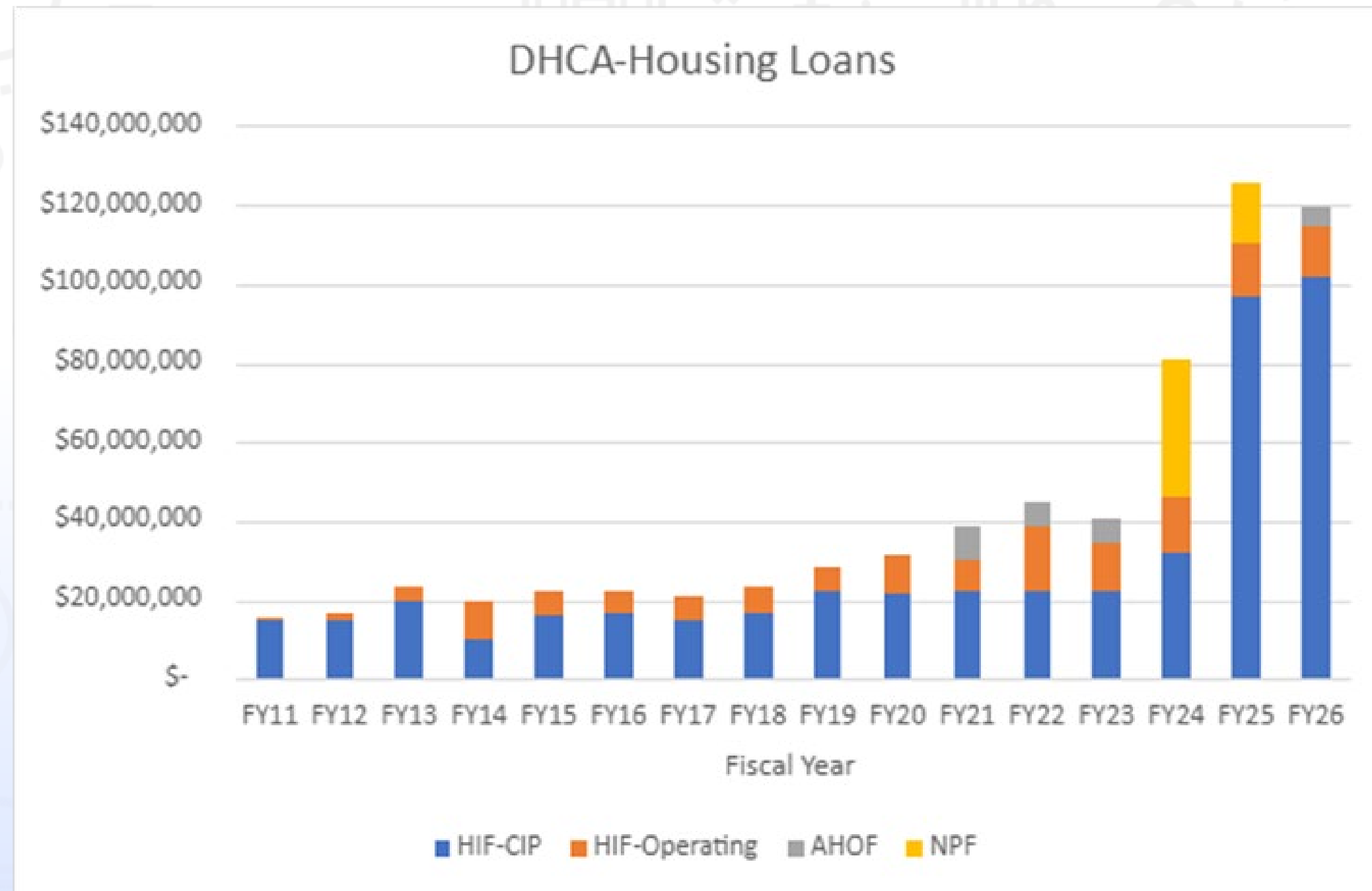
County Executive Priorities:
Health and Human Services

- Enhanced and expanded Montgomery Cares and Care for Kids to ensure long-term program sustainability

- Increased support for developmental disability and adult medical day care providers

- Expanded School Health Services through Community Schools, Bridges to Wellness, and other in-school clinics

- Expanded support for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness by $39.2 million from FY19 to FY26 including:

- Launch of the Short-term Housing and Resolution Program (SHaRP) ($6.9 million) that provides up to 12 months of rental assistance and navigation services to help families quickly resolve their housing crisis; and

- Eviction Prevention Services ($16.6 million) that provide housing stabilization services for residents at risk of homelessness

County Executive Priorities:
Public Safety

- **Invested in firefighter health and wellness** – launched early-detection cancer screening and expanded mental health services adding a psychologist supervisor, Critical Incident Stress Manager and therapists

- **Expanded community safety efforts** – grew the Community Risk Reduction and Action teams with additional personnel to strengthen outreach and education program for residents

- **Increased EMS resources** – Added new duty officers, chase cars, and 2 ambulances to meet community demand and improve emergency response times and meet growing demand

- **Invested in Police Recruitment and Retention**, including increasing cadet program enrollment from 12 to 25 and adding support staff to improve hiring efforts

- Provided support to the **Violent Crime Information Center** to provide **real-time tactical intelligence** to officers and command staff

- Enhanced Community Safety Infrastructure, including funding for two additional **mobile crisis teams**, funding for hundreds of **dashboard video cameras**, and adding **school crossing guards**

County Executive Priorities:
Transportation

- Implemented a zero-fare policy, that went into effect on Sunday, June 29 for all Ride On, Ride On extra, Ride On Flex and Flash buses: zero bus fare reduces barriers to public transportation increasing access for many residents

- Advanced the County's Flash Bus Rapid Transit network by launching Flash service on US-29 and obtaining grants to fund design and construction of planned services for Veirs Mill Road and MD 355

- Initiated the transition of the Ride On Bus Fleet to zero emissions by procuring electric buses, constructing solar microgrids at bus depots, and obtaining a federal grant for hydrogen fueling infrastructure

- Developed the Ride On Reimagined Plan to improve and expand transit services

- Increased traffic signal evaluations to reduce congestion and improve timing

- Launched the first phase of the Great Seneca Transit Network to provide express bus service in the Shady Grove corridor and the Life Sciences Center along I-370

County Executive Priorities:
Montgomery County Public Schools

- Increasing school funding to catch up with previous per student funding levels when adjusted for inflation

- Historic funding increases in the last three years, adding $210 million in FY26 alone

- $1.8 billion for MCPS facilities invested in the FY25-30 Capital Budget

MCPS Per-Pupil FY01-FY26 Appropriation: Actual & Adjusted for Inflation

$23,499 (inflation-adjusted peak, FY10)

$22,484

$16,806 (inflation-adjusted peak, FY10)

$14,624

Legend:
- ⋯⋯ Total Per Student (2025 dollars)
- —— Total Per Student (actual dollars)
- ⋯⋯ County Per Student (2025 dollars)
- —— County Per Student (actual dollars)

X-axis: FY01, FY02, FY03, FY04, FY05, FY06, FY07, FY08, FY09, FY10, FY11, FY12, FY13, FY14, FY15, FY16, FY17, FY18, FY19, FY20, FY21, FY22, FY23, FY24, FY25, FY26

Y-axis: $0, $5,000, $10,000, $15,000, $20,000, $25,000

County and MCPS Budgets:

Separate but Connected

- The School Board makes its own budget and sends it to the County

- The County Executive recommends how much money the school system gets, but not how it is spent

- The County Council approves recommended funding for the schools

- The County works with the Board of Education to ask the State for more funding

- Montgomery College, Park & Planning, and WSSC Water follow a similar process

- If you have requests, please contact these agencies directly

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
FY27 Operating Budget Forums

Fiscal Context

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD
A Revolutionary Community from the Very Beginning

September 6, 1776

FY26 Fixed & Other Commitments as a % of General Fund Revenue ($millions)
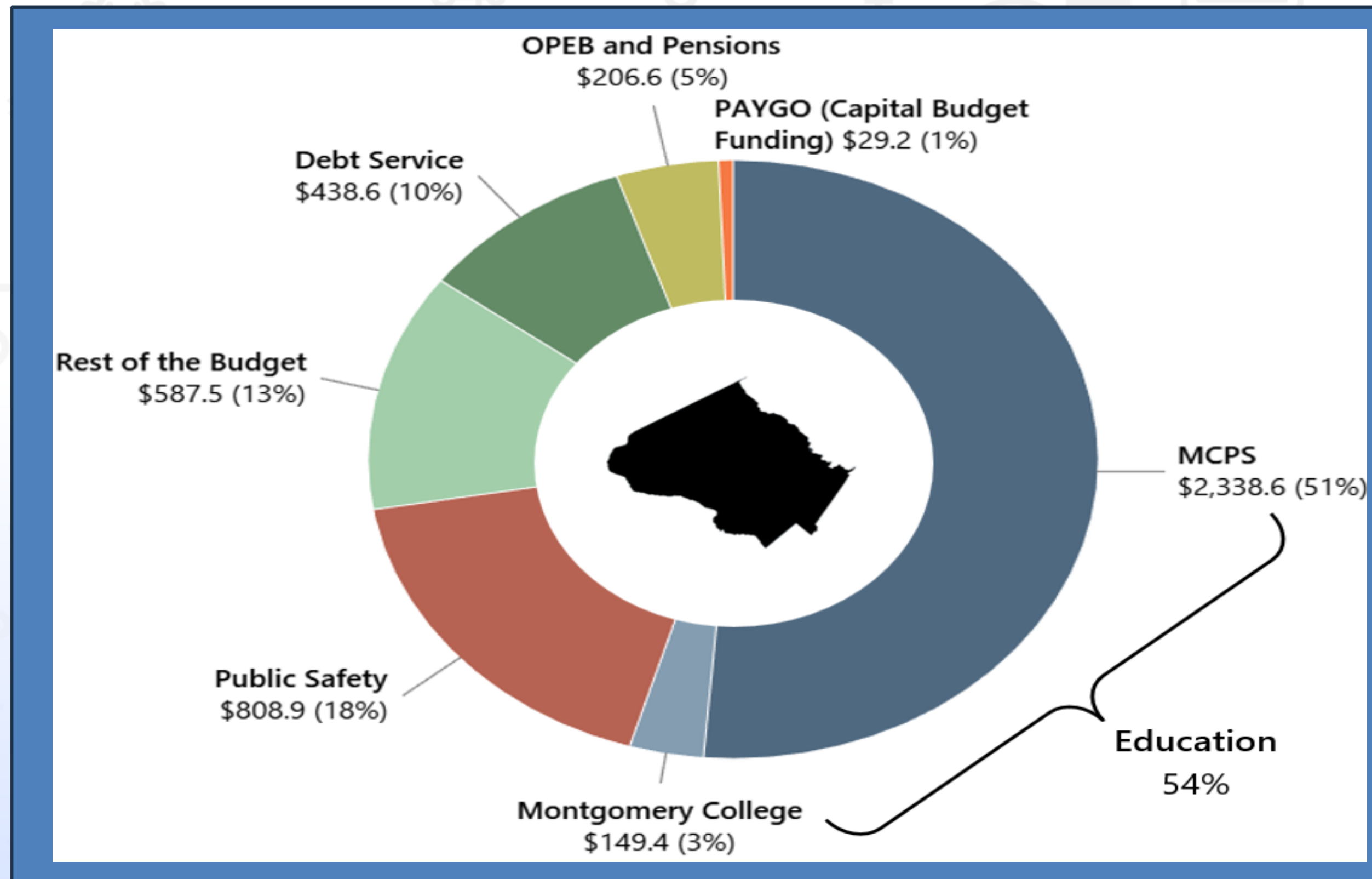
Total GF Budget: $4,558.9

Rest of the Budget: $587.5

- Bus Drivers
- Circuit Court
- Libraries
- Parks
- Recreation
- School Health Nurses
- And more

Operating Budget Challenges

- More people need help

- Schools cost more

- Diminishing budget flexibility

    - Inflation and constrained resources

    - Recommended tax increases not approved

- Uncertain job market

- Federal and State funding may change

- Big revenue swings from high-income earners and federal decisions in DC

Federal Government Impacts

Courtesy of Associated Press

- **Resident Job Loses**

  - Employment in Montgomery County fell by 9,600 from July 2024 – July 2025.

  - 56,000 County residents employed by the Federal Government.

  - Over 13,000 Maryland federal jobs lost since January 2025 alone.

  - October 1, 2025, we expect to see impact of Federal government job separations

- **Federal spending reductions**

  - $33 billion in Federal spending at risk

- **Possible relocation of federal agencies**

- **More costs shifted to state & local government**

- **Deportations affecting communities & businesses**

Infrastructure – Big Needs, Limited Money

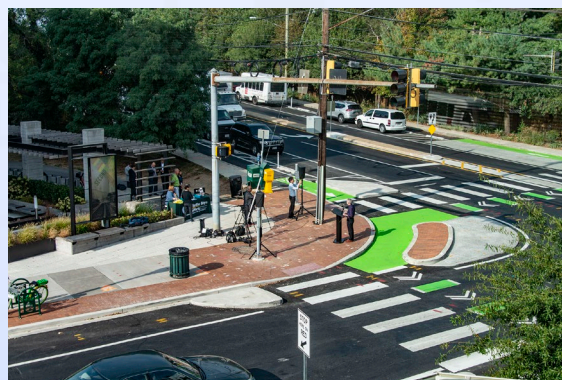Investment Needed to Maintain $300M (FY09) Buying Power (based on CCI)

Legend: GO Bond Authorized (Budget Year $ Millions) — Investment Needed to Maintain $300M Buying Power (based on Baltimore CCI)
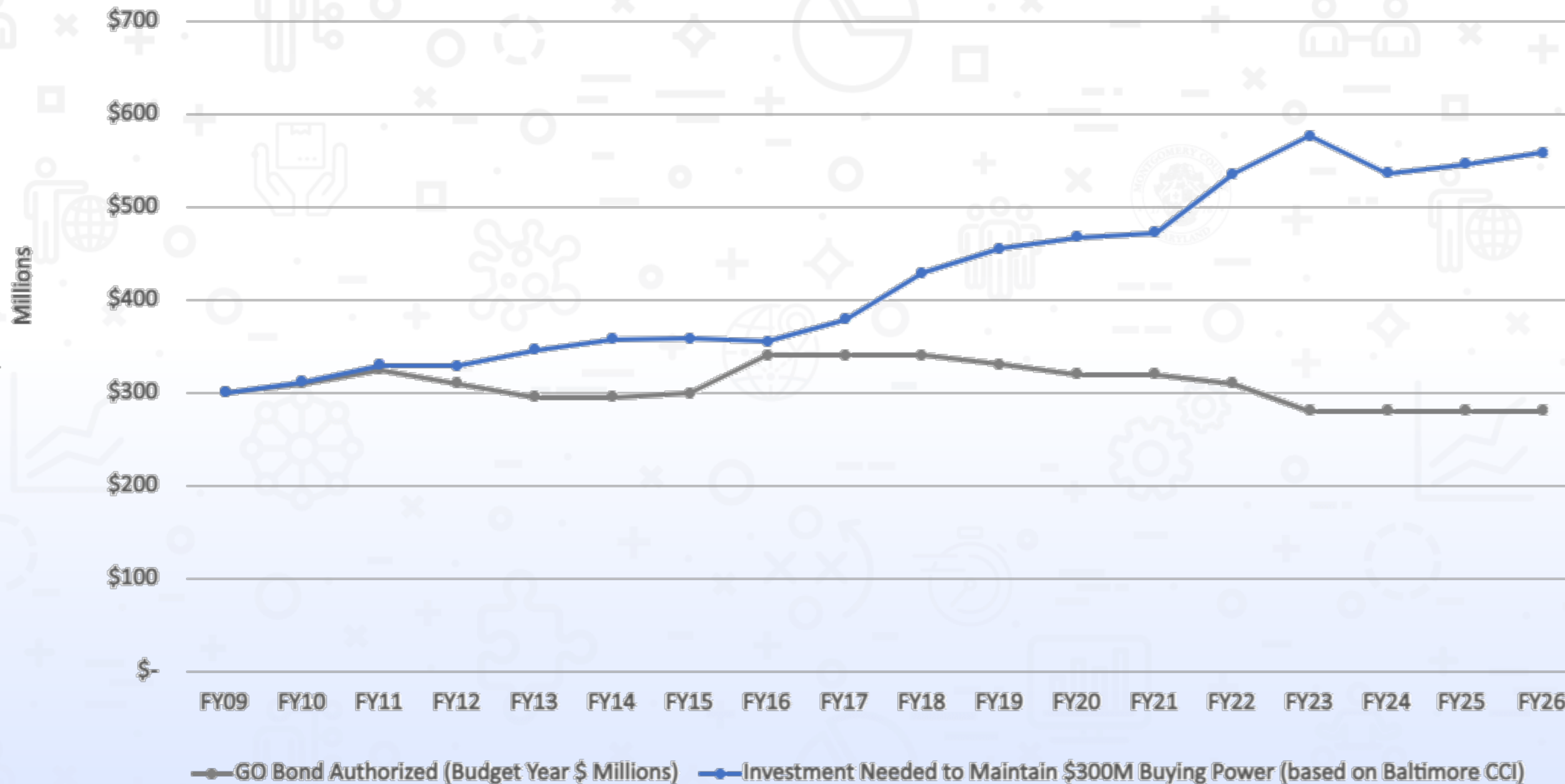
Rising Costs

RideOn Bus:	FY16	$467,000
	FY26	$1,200,000 (electric)

New School: $/SQFT	FY16	$361
	FY26	$834

Fire Engine:	FY16	$685,000
	FY26	$1,200,000

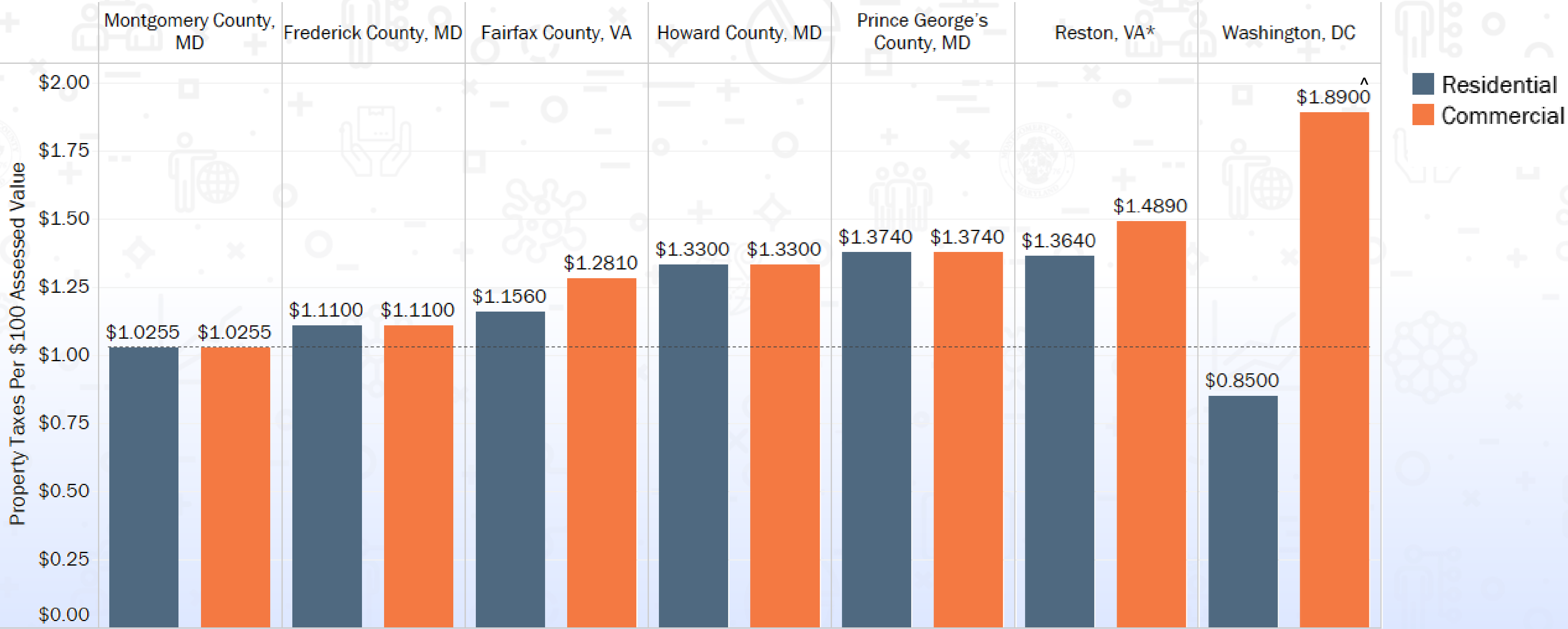| Road Paving: $/Lane Mile	FY16	$390,000
	FY26	$519,000

Not New Taxes, Tax Restructuring

- Tax system was designed in the 1950s and 60s, when most revenue came from new homes. That helped us build great schools and roads.

- Today, the County is fully developed and we need modern investments in schools and transportation.

- To keep our community strong, we must update how we raise revenue – not by adding new taxes, but by restructuring the system, as Northern Virginia has already done.

Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring MD. December 1967. Photo Credit: Steve Michaels

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How Montgomery County Compares

Residential & Commercial Property Tax Rates of Selected MD/DC/VA Jurisdictions

Chart: Property Taxes Per $100 Assessed Value

Legend: Residential (dark blue), Commercial (orange)

Jurisdiction	Residential	Commercial
Montgomery County, MD	$1.0255	$1.0255
Frederick County, MD	$1.1100	$1.1100
Fairfax County, VA	$1.1560	$1.2810
Howard County, MD	$1.3300	$1.3300
Prince George's County, MD	$1.3740	$1.3740
Reston, VA*	$1.3640	$1.4890
Washington, DC	$0.8500	$1.8900 ^

^For assessed value greater than $10 million. DC commercial tax rates: $1.65 for assessed value ≤ $5M; $1.77 for > $5M but ≤ $10M; $1.89 for > $10M.
*Represents tax districts for Hunter Mill District #5 for the Reston Service Area/Dulles Rail Phase 2 (105RW, 1T5RW).

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